

**From:** [Nickel, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Sean Gross - NOAA Federal](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Forthcoming draft NPDES permit for Washington Beef, LLC  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 12:46:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [WA0050202\\_WA\\_Beef\\_2022\\_Draft\\_BE\\_2022-10-31.pdf](#)  
[WA\\_Beef\\_Draft\\_FS\\_Clean\\_2022-10-28.pdf](#)  
[WA\\_Beef\\_PDP\\_Clean\\_2022-10-28.pdf](#)

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Sean:

Thank you for the quick response. Attached for your review and comment are the preliminary draft permit, the draft fact sheet, and draft biological evaluation for the Washington Beef NPDES permit.

The preliminary draft permit and draft fact sheet are currently being reviewed by the Yakama Nation; we have asked for their feedback within 30 days. If you could provide feedback within that time frame, that would be ideal.

The current (nominally expired but administratively continued and still enforceable) permit, fact sheet, and response to comments are available on our website, here:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-permit-washington-beef-toppenish-washington>

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA Region 10 | Water Division | NPDES Permits Section

Voice: 206-553-6251 | Toll Free: 800-424-4372 ext. 6251 | Fax: 206-553-1280

[Nickel.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Nickel.Brian@epa.gov)

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/about-region-10s-npdes-permit-program>

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**From:** Sean Gross - NOAA Federal <[sean.gross@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.gross@noaa.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 10:55 AM

**To:** Nickel, Brian <[Nickel.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Nickel.Brian@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Forthcoming draft NPDES permit for Washington Beef, LLC

Brian,

I work for Justin Yeager and he's asked me to be your point of contact for the project. I'd appreciate it if you can send me the draft documents. I'll review and then we can decide what followup makes the most sense.

Thanks

**Sean Gross**

*Fisheries Biologist, Interior Columbia Basin Office*  
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce  
Cell: (509) 856-5442  
[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Justin Yeager - NOAA Federal** <[justin.yeager@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.yeager@noaa.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Oct 31, 2022 at 10:52 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Forthcoming draft NPDES permit for Washington Beef, LLC  
To: Sean Gross <[sean.gross@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.gross@noaa.gov)>

Sean,

Can you look over this email and respond to Brian or we can discuss if you think we need to take another path.

**Justin Yeager**

*Branch Chief, Columbia Basin Branch*  
*Interior Columbia Basin Area Office, West Coast Region*  
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce  
Mobile: (509) 899-9784  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nickel, Brian** <[Nickel.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Nickel.Brian@epa.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 5:16 PM  
Subject: Forthcoming draft NPDES permit for Washington Beef, LLC  
To: [justin.yeager@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.yeager@noaa.gov) <[justin.yeager@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.yeager@noaa.gov)>

Justin:

I work for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting section.

I am working on reissuing an NPDES permit for Washington Beef, LLC, which is a complex slaughterhouse, which discharges treated wastewater to Wanity Slough and Spencer Lateral near Toppenish, Washington. I have prepared a draft biological evaluation, a preliminary draft permit, and a draft fact sheet that explains the conditions in the draft permit. The draft BE finds that the discharge is not likely to adversely affect Middle Columbia River steelhead. As such, we intend to request informal consultation on the permit soon.

Would you like me to send these draft documents to you for your review and comment before we request informal consultation? Would it be helpful to schedule a meeting to discuss the draft permit?

I'm looking forward to working with you on this project.

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA Region 10 | Water Division | NPDES Permits Section

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<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/about-region-10s-npdes-permit-program>

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